
**Safety of machinery — Instruction
handbook — General drafting
principles**

*Sécurité des machines — Notice d'instructions — Principes
rédactionnels généraux*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 199, *Safety of machinery*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document is a type-B standard as stated in ISO 12100.

This document is of relevance, in particular, for the following stakeholder groups representing the market players with regard to machinery safety:

- machine manufacturers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- health and safety bodies (regulators, accident prevention organisations, market surveillance etc.).

Others can be affected by the level of machinery safety achieved with the means of the document by the above-mentioned stakeholder groups:

- machine users/employers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- machine users/employees (e.g. trade unions, organizations for people with special needs);
- service providers, e. g. for maintenance (small, medium and large enterprises);
- consumers (in case of machinery intended for use by consumers).

The above-mentioned stakeholder groups have been given the possibility to participate at the drafting process of this document.

In addition, this document is intended for standardization bodies elaborating type-C standards.

The requirements of this document can be supplemented or modified by a type-C standard.

For machines which are covered by the scope of a type-C standard and which have been designed and built according to the requirements of that standard, the requirements of that type-C standard take precedence.

The structure of safety standards in the field of machinery is as follows.

- a) **Type-A standards** (basic safety standards) give basic concepts, principles for design and general aspects that can be applied to machinery;
- b) **Type-B standards** (generic safety standards) dealing with one or more safety aspect(s), or one or more type(s) of safeguards that can be used across a wide range of machinery:
 - type-B1 standards on particular safety aspects (for example, safety distances, surface temperature, noise);
 - type-B2 standards on safeguards (for example, two-hand control devices, interlocking devices, pressure-sensitive devices, guards);
- c) **Type-C standards** (machine safety standards) dealing with detailed safety requirements for a particular machine or group of machines.

This type-B standard is written to provide guidance to machine manufacturers on how to provide an instruction handbook. According to ISO 12100:2010, 6.4.1.1, drafting information for use is an integral part of the design of a machine. Information for use consists of communication links, such as texts, words, signs, signals, symbols or diagrams, used separately or in combination to convey information to the user. Information for use is intended for professional and/or non-professional users. Instructions are a key part of the information for use of a machine. This document provides safety specifications for machinery that is more specific than IEC/IEEE 82079-1.

The instruction handbook drafted in accordance with this document is intended to inform the user in such a manner that after reading it, he/she is aware of how the machine can be used safely according to its intended use during its life cycle, considering also aspects of reasonably foreseeable misuse.

ISO 20607:2019(E)

The objective fulfilled by this document is to improve the safety specifications and readability/ease of use of the instruction handbook of the machine.

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Safety of machinery — Instruction handbook — General drafting principles

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the machine manufacturer for preparation of the safety-relevant parts of an instruction handbook for machinery.

This document:

- provides further specifications to the general requirements on information for use given in ISO 12100:2010, 6.4.5; and
- deals with the safety-related content, the corresponding structure and presentation of the instruction handbook, taking into account all phases of the life cycle of the machine.

NOTE 1 The strategy for risk reduction at the machine is given in ISO 12100:2010, Clause 6, and includes inherently safe design measures, safeguarding and complementary risk reduction measures as well as information for use.

NOTE 2 [Annex A](#) contains a correspondence table between ISO 12100:2010, 6.4, and this document.

NOTE 3 Information for conception and preparation of instructions in general is available in IEC/IEEE 82079-1.

This document establishes the principles which are indispensable to provide information on residual risks.

This document does not address requirements for declaration of noise and vibration emissions.

This document is not applicable to machinery manufactured before the date of its publication.

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2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 12100:2010, *Safety of machinery — General principles for design — Risk assessment and risk reduction*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 12100 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

instruction handbook

part of the information for use provided by a machine manufacturer to the machine user that contains instructions and advice concerning the use of the machinery during all phases of its life cycle

Note 1 to entry: Instruction handbook is a subset of information for use. For more information, see ISO 12100:2010, 6.4.

3.2

integrator

entity who designs, provides, manufactures or assembles an integrated manufacturing system and is in charge of the safety strategy, including the protective measures, control interfaces and interconnections of the control system

Note 1 to entry: The integrator may be a manufacturer, assembler, engineering company or the user.

[SOURCE: ISO 11161:2007, 3.10]

3.3

risk reduction measure

action or means to eliminate hazards or reduce risks

Note 1 to entry: The term "risk reduction measure" used in this document corresponds to the term "protective measure" used in ISO 12100.

EXAMPLE Inherently safe design; protective devices; personal protective equipment; information for use and installation; organization of work; training; application of equipment; supervision.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.13, modified — The synonymous term has been deleted and Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.4

vulnerable user

user at greater risk of harm from products or systems, due to age, level of literacy, physical or mental condition or limitations, or inability to access product safety information

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 51:2014, 3.16, modified — The term "consumer" has been replaced by "user" in the term and in the definition.]

4 Principles and general information

4.1 General

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The purpose of the instruction handbook is to provide the user with such information that the machinery concerned can be effectively and safely used during the life cycle of the machine, also considering reasonably foreseeable misuse. When the instruction handbook is being prepared, the communication process "read – think – use" should be followed in order to achieve the maximum effect for the reader.

NOTE For general principles of design of instruction handbooks see also IEC/IEEE 82079-1:2019, 6.3.

The instruction handbook shall follow sequential operations, as applicable.

The instruction handbook shall provide the target group(s) with information on:

- intended use;
- the machine itself and, as appropriate, its parts and components;
- relevant phases of the life cycle of the machine according to ISO 12100;
- hazards that have been identified and risk reduction measures that have been applied in conjunction with activities the user is expected to perform (human machine interaction); and
- residual risks, as these can require risk reduction by the user of the machine.

4.2 Target group for the instruction handbook

Target groups consisting of persons who interact directly with the machine and the task(s) they perform shall be identified.

Target groups that can interact with the machine shall be described in the instruction handbook and typically include, but are not limited to:

- a) installers (for example, system integrators);
- b) operators;
- c) maintenance personnel or technicians;
- d) cleaning personnel;
- e) dismantling personnel.

4.3 Information needs

The instruction handbook shall take into account the specific needs, foreseeable knowledge and technical vocabulary of the target group intended to use the machine.

4.4 Comprehensible terminology and wording

The instruction handbook shall be:

- a) comprehensible by using preferably standardized terms, well recognized technical terms or explaining special technical terms and expressions, if used;
- b) as simple and as brief as possible by using, for example
 - language-independent instructions to support the text (pictograms, pictures, drawings etc.);
 - short and simple sentences;
 - where synonyms are available, use only one term;
 - tables and listings;
 - chronological, logical and sequential writing;
 - repetition, where necessary;
 - diagrams, charts;
- c) expressed in consistent terms and units (for example, SI quantities);
- d) drafted using the active voice;
- e) easily translatable.

NOTE For guidance and examples on formulation, see [Annex C](#).

4.5 Presentation of the instruction handbook

The instruction handbook may be presented as a single document or as a set of separate documents, for example, for the following reasons:

- instructions intended for different target groups (see [4.2](#));
- a single document is too large or complex;
- document is addressing different life phases of the machine.

When providing information for different target groups in a single document the information shall be clearly separated so that a user does not accidentally refer to information which does not apply.

4.6 Information from component or subsystem suppliers

Where information from component or subsystem suppliers is necessary for the instruction handbook, it shall either:

- be incorporated directly in the instruction handbook; or
- provide the relevant parts of the original instruction handbook of components/subsystems from suppliers and making appropriate references therein.

4.7 Legibility

Text and graphical symbols shall be legible for the target group(s).

NOTE For examples of recommended text font sizes and graphical symbol heights, see [Annex B](#).

4.8 Warnings, hazard and safety symbols used in the instruction handbook

Warnings, hazard and safety symbols shall be distinguishable from other content of the instruction handbook.

When signs (pictograms) and/or written warnings are used to indicate important messages their meaning shall be clearly explained.

NOTE 1 [Annex C](#) provides guidance on wording.

NOTE 2 Terms often used in instruction handbooks are "DANGER", "WARNING", "CAUTION" without or in combination with pictograms. For the definitions of these terms and more information about colours for coding, see ISO 3864-2.

NOTE 3 For safety signs and symbols, see ISO 7000 and ISO 7010.

4.9 Structuring

The instruction handbook should be structured in a such a way that the information can be quickly located, for example, by using sections, chapters, sub-clauses, headings, numbers, highlighting, colors.

NOTE See [Clause 5](#) for a recommended structure.

Instruction handbooks shall be presented in a such a way that the reader can determine if they are complete (for example, using a table of contents and the numbering of pages).

4.10 Residual risks

4.10.1 General

Based on the risk assessment and the risk reduction measures the manufacturer of the machine shall inform and warn the target group, if relevant, for each residual risk. General statements about residual risks shall be avoided.

NOTE The information on residual risks form the basis for further risk reduction measures to be introduced by the user of the machine.

Explanations on the risks and appropriate warnings shall be given.

4.10.2 Signals and warning devices provided with the machine

The instruction handbook shall describe signals and warning devices provided with the machine and explain their meaning.

4.11 IT security vulnerabilities

Where applicable, the instruction handbook shall provide information concerning IT security vulnerabilities. See ISO/TR 22100-4:2018, 10.4.

5 Content and structure of the instruction handbook

5.1 General

The essential information, relevant for the user, shall be structured in an instruction handbook (see [Table 1](#) for an example). [Table 1](#) does not take into account all different target groups, but is a template for information that can be placed in an instruction handbook for the machine concerned. From this, a writer can create a specific instruction handbook for a particular target group. An instruction handbook for a user/operator need not contain all the sections of [Table 1](#).

Table 1 — Instruction handbook content example

Section	Content
Basic parts of an instruction handbook (see 5.2.1)	Title page Table of contents Introduction to/purpose of this instruction handbook
Safety (see 5.2.2)	General safety information and general safety instructions
Machine overview (see 5.2.3)	Machine description Intended use Key machine specifications Controls and displays descriptions Floor plan/layout
Transportation, handling and storage (see 5.2.4)	Transporting, handling and storing the machine and/or the components
Assembly, installation and commissioning (see 5.2.5)	Assembly/integration of the machine Positioning of the machine Mechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic and electrical installation Check and test of safety systems Installation check Commissioning
Original equipment manufacturer settings (see 5.2.6)	Mechanical settings and synchronization Safety-related (setting) parameters Pneumatic, hydraulic, electrical and vacuum settings Other settings
Operation (see 5.2.7)	Operating modes Machine start-up and shut-down Sequence or chronology of operations Other operating instructions, if applicable
Product or capacity changeover (see 5.2.8)	General product or capacity changeover information Product-specific set-up information
Inspection, testing and maintenance (see 5.2.9)	Maintenance instructions